

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MR. JOHN H.
BETJEMANN

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate one of the most selfless and caring citizens of the First Congressional District of Indiana, Mr. John H. Betjemann. John has spent the past 23 years dedicating his life to promoting healthcare development and community service to all of Northwest Indiana. His career as President and CEO of the Methodist Hospitals in Gary, Merrillville, and surrounding communities has allowed him the opportunity to touch the lives of numerous people. In honor of his gracious service to his community, there will be a celebration of his accomplishments on June 26, 2003 at St. Timothy's Church in Gary, Indiana.

John Betjemann has accomplished many visionary goals throughout his career. He has focused his work on Neuroscience and Oncology medical services for diagnostics and treatment of cancer, brain tumors, and many other diseases. He has also provided Northwest Indiana with the Midlake Campus, which helps in the development services for children and new paramedic training for employees. He has also assured the identification of youth who are at risk of sudden cardiac trauma by providing high school athletic screening programs at no charge. Also in 1999, John established the Smoke-Free Hospital Policy to help promote better healthcare environments for the patients, employees, and visitors of Methodist Hospitals.

Along with the countless service organizations and programs that John has initiated, he has also been involved in many community organizations and projects. He has been a powerful member of the Horace Mann Ambridge Neighborhood Improvement Organization, which rehabilitates homes in the Northlake Campus area for low income, disabled families, and provides resources for repair and maintenance to these homes. He has also been a strong leader of the Adopt-A-Park Project, which along with IVY Tech, Gary Parks Department, and Lake County Job Training, helps to enhance Gary City parks by installing modern play equipment.

Along with his many other accomplishments, John has also received numerous community service and leadership awards. In 1988, John was given the Community Service Award by the Tolle-Mann Business Association. In 1995, he was the recipient of the Crystal Globe Award, which was given by the Asian American Medical Society. The Wellness Council also acknowledged him in 2000 for implementing the Health Institute.

Mr. Speaker, John has given his time and efforts selflessly to his employees and patients throughout his years of service. He has taught every member of his staff the true meaning of service to all members of the Northwest Indi-

ana community. I respectfully ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in congratulating Mr. John Betjemann for his outstanding contributions to Indiana's First Congressional District. I am proud to commend him for his lifetime of service and dedication.

SUPPORT NATIONAL PROFES-
SIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, as a social worker, I rise to highlight the beneficial work performed every day by social workers across this country. Social work is a unique profession, which combines a diverse skill set to serve individuals, families, groups, communities, organizations, as well as society-at-large.

Social workers help people address a wide variety of concerns, from homelessness, substance dependence and abuse, and mental illnesses to community development, employee assistance programs, emergency preparedness, and disaster relief. They work directly with individuals, couples, families, and groups to identify and overcome these and other challenges. Many social workers also aid communities, organizations, and systems in the improvement of services and the administration of social and health programs. As a result, social workers may be found in a variety of settings, among them, private practice, health and mental health, education, community, public welfare, agency administration, and policy and planning.

Social workers hold almost 500,000 jobs, with one in three found in State, county, or municipal government agencies, primarily in departments of health and human services, mental health, social services, child welfare, housing, education, and corrections. In the private sector, social workers provide services in hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies, and other health centers or clinics. An increasing number have successfully sought elected offices in local, State, and Federal Government, to further contribute to the welfare of our country and our society. I would like to commend our colleagues, Representatives BARBARA LEE, SUSAN DAVIS, and ED TOWNS, who are exemplary professional social workers, and are among the almost two hundred publicly elected social workers serving their communities.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that employment of social workers is expected to increase faster than the average for all occupations through 2010. The elderly population is increasing rapidly, creating greater demand for health and social services, resulting in particularly rapid job growth among gerontology social workers. Social workers also will be needed to help the large baby-boom "sandwich" generation deal with the resulting pres-

ures, depression and mental health concerns stemming from mid-life, career, or other personal and professional difficulties. In addition, continuing concern about crime, juvenile delinquency, and services for the mentally ill, the mentally retarded, the physically disabled, AIDS patients, and individuals and families in crisis, will spur demand for social workers.

Hospitals, long-term care facilities, and home healthcare services will continue to depend on social workers to coordinate and provide aftercare services for their clients. The popularity of assisted-living communities among the expanding senior population requires the expertise of social work gerontology specialists. Social workers with substance abuse and addiction skills offer those seeking treatment a better chance at successful reintegration into society. Employment of school social workers is expected to grow in order to address rising student enrollments. Outcomes-based treatment provided by social workers facilitates the cost effectiveness goals of managed care organizations, enabling those in private practice to be heavily utilized and increase access to services. The increase in employee assistance programs (EAP) has also fueled the demand for private practitioners, many of whom are contracted with small and large corporations, local, State, and Federal agencies. With the September 11 attacks and its aftermath, EAP social workers have helped survivors to deal with the uncertainty and trauma of terrorism and war, and continue to support employees and their families.

Earlier this year, I reintroduced H.R. 844, the National Center for Social Work Research Act. This act would establish a center within the National Institutes of Health to coordinate ongoing social work research, develop new methods to help social workers provide effective services to the public, and promote the use of social work research to improve public policy.

Social work research, through the coordinated efforts of the National Center, will undeniably advance both the delivery and quality of health care and social services in this country. Fiscal responsibility and accountability demand that the best practices are determined through, and grounded in, empirically-based research. Consumers, practitioners, and policymakers must demand service effectiveness and cost efficiency, facilitated by the establishment of a National Center for Social Work Research. Social workers, as front-line professionals, compile information that seeks to understand the dynamics that lead to social issues, provide empirical support for best practice approaches to improve service delivery, and translate them into public policy decisions. With the limited resources available, policy makers must depend on these problem solvers to address many complex social issues such as poverty, welfare dependence, and drug abuse.

The social work profession is truly multifaceted. As dedicated advocates for the rights

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